

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings

American Medical Association, St. Louis, Missouri, May 15 to 19, 1939. Olin West, M. D., Secretary, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois.

California Medical Association, Hotel Del Monte, May 1 to 4, 1939. George H. Kress, M. D., Secretary, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco.

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Pacific Coast Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Los Angeles, November 30 to December 3. T. Floyd Bell, M. D., Secretary, 400 Twenty-ninth Street, Oakland.

Western Surgical Association, Omaha, December 2 to 3. Albert H. Montgomery, M. D., Secretary, 122 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago.

Medical Broadcasts*

Los Angeles County Medical Association

The radio broadcast program for the Los Angeles County Medical Association for the month of November is as follows:

Thursday, November 3—KECA, 10:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, November 5—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, November 10—KECA, 10:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, November 12—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, November 17—KECA, 10:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, November 19—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, November 24—Thanksgiving Day.

Saturday, November 26—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

San Diego County Medical Society Postgraduate Conference in Gynecology.—The Conference was conducted by a local committee, in conjunction with the Committee on Postgraduate Activities of the California Medical Association, on October 17, 18, 19, and 20. The program follows:

October 17, Mercy Hospital—Menstrual Disorders, Dr. Daniel G. Morton, Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of California.

October 18, Red Cross Building, Naval Hospital—Cancer: Cervix and Uterine, Doctor Morton.

October 19, University Club—Pelvic Infections: (1) Obstetrical Infections, Dr. William Benbow Thompson, Los Angeles. (2) Gynecological Infections, Dr. Erle Henriksen, Los Angeles. Dinner 6:30 p. m. \$1.00.

October 20, Mercy Hospital—Benign Lesions and Uterine Tumors, Dr. Donald G. Tollefson, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Southern California.

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged (stating station, day, date and hour, and subject) to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for inclusion in this column.

"Fortune's" Article on the "American Medical Association."—On October 27 the November issue of *Fortune* will be released. A box caption, in referring to its article on the American Medical Association, states:

"The businessman is not the only one with a government problem on his hands. The doctor also has that particular headache and has not yet learned how to cure it. Here-with is the story of the embattled American Medical Association and the dramatic social and political issues with which it is now confronted."

Members who are interested in organization work may wish to read the article.

President Sproul Urges the Defeat of Pound Bill at Election.—Strongly urging the defeat of the so-called State Humane Pound Act, President Robert Gordon Sproul of the University of California has written the California Society for the Promotion of Medical Research, terming the proposed act a definite and continuing obstacle to the conservation and increase of the minds and bodies of the people of the state. President Sproul said:

"It is my hope that the efforts of the California Society for the Promotion of Medical Research to make public the dangers of the proposed State Humane Pound Act will lead to its overwhelming defeat by the voters of California.

"It is obvious that the passage of this bill will increase the cost of necessary disease prevention and control by authorized research centers. At a time when the tax burden for public welfare activities is a real problem to the average citizen this fact cannot be dismissed too lightly. But adding unnecessary costs to health protection is only one of many faults in the provisions of the proposed pound law.

"The real objection to the bill is that it attempts to enact antivivisection legislation which the people and the legislature have already refused to accept, by concealing its real purpose under a cloak of sentiment. Every dog owner, including myself, is ready to do everything to protect these friends of mankind from needless exploitation. But the proposed bill appears to be less concerned with the protection of dogs than it is with handicapping medical progress.

"If the Pound Act were to be passed, the University of California and other research centers would be faced with the choice of giving up many studies aimed at the improvement of health and the increase of happiness for animals as well as human beings, or of going into the business of raising laboratory animals on breeding farms. Certainly, the bringing of more dogs into the world when so many are already wandering about without owners or homes is not progress.

"On the other hand, the abandoning of research into the disease origins of preventable suffering and death would be a calamity for mankind as well as a betrayal of the responsibility which mankind has assumed for the welfare of the animals which it has domesticated. There is nothing more basic to improvement of human and animal welfare than the control and prevention of disease. The future of civilization, spiritually as well as materially, depends upon the thinking of healthy minds and the action of healthy bodies. To the conservation and increase of such minds and bodies the State Humane Pound Act would be a definite and continuing obstacle."

Pan-Pacific Surgical Association.—The third congress of the Pan-Pacific Surgical Association will be held in Honolulu on September 15 to 28, 1939.

This will be the third meeting of the Pan-Pacific Surgical Association, the two former ones having been held in 1929 and 1936, also in Honolulu. An invitation is extended to all surgeons of the California Medical Association to meet, in Honolulu, outstanding men from countries of the Pacific area, including Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, Java, Canada, and the United States, for an interchange of surgical thought and for the purpose of bringing about better understanding through personal contact among the surgeons of these countries.

There will be sections in fractures and orthopedics, general surgery, gynecology, motion pictures, neurosurgery, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, roentgenology, plastic surgery, thoracic surgery and neurology—all headed up by outstanding men as chairmen for the United States and equally prominent men as chairmen for the Australasian section. The Congress affords not only participation in interesting scientific papers, but a very enjoyable vacation in the "Paradise of the Pacific."

Communications for information should be directed to Dr. George W. Swift, 902 Boren Avenue, Seattle, past president of the Association; Dr. Frederick L. Reichert, Stanford University Hospital, San Francisco, program chairman for the United States; Dr. Howard Updegraff, 6777 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, program vice-chairman; or Dr. Forrest J. Pinkerton, secretary-treasurer of the Association, Young Building, Honolulu, Hawaii.

"March of Life" Is Medical School Display for 1939.

How medical science has turned aside the stream of plagues, disease, childbirth suffering, and accident mortality, is to be displayed in a sixteen-unit exhibit by the University of California as part of its participation in the Golden Gate International Exposition in 1939. The display, which has been titled "The March of Life," will give visual proof of what medicine and surgery have accomplished since the time of Hippocrates, father of the healing arts. While it will show something of the inroads of disease, chief emphasis will be placed on prevention and cure.

With Dr. Karl F. Meyer, director of the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research, as the chairman of the exhibit committee, and Dr. Langley Porter, dean of the University's medical school, directing the enterprise, the exhibit is rapidly assuming shape and form.

Unit No. 1 will itself be titled "The March of Life," with a series of thirty-five transparencies showing the history of the individual from the prenatal period to old age, with the various bodily changes involved. The second will contain a key index and general descriptive panel which will describe the whole exhibit in detail. The third will deal with the animal kingdom, showing how animals are both the friend and foe of man. This will consist of a large painting 11 feet wide and 7 feet high, illuminated from behind, and emphasizing particularly the processes of disease transmission. The fourth unit will show the prenatal period of human life. The fifth, sixth, and seventh will deal with the diseases of children and their prevention, while the eighth will compare growth changes through childhood to adolescence. The ninth will depict the healing mysteries and near miracles of surgery, while the tenth and eleventh will feature the place of the physician in the scheme of life and some of the diseases that he has conquered.

The twelfth unit will be given over to a display on arthritis, illustrated by colored lantern slides. The thirteenth will deal with the right and the wrong way of arriving at old age. The fourteenth will show the percentage shifts in population between people of various ages. The fifteenth will be a display covering nutrition, both good and bad, while the sixteenth will demonstrate the services rendered by the University's medical center to its own students.

Cancer Commission Pathological Conferences.—The next Microscopic Conference of the Cancer Commission of the California Medical Association will be held in the Science Building at the University of Southern California Medical School, University Avenue and Thirty-sixth Place, Los Angeles on Sunday, December 18, at 9:30 a. m. The following announcement has been received from Dr. Otto H. Pflueger, Secretary of the Cancer Commission of the California Medical Association, the roster of whose members is printed in each issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, on advertising page 2.

"In order that the committee in charge of the Conference—Dr. A. G. Foord, Dr. Newton Evans, and Dr. E. M. Hall—may go over the cases that are suitable, we are asking that, if you have a case which you would like to present, you send in two or three sample slides and a case history for the Committee's perusal as soon as possible.

"If a case is accepted, the Committee will notify you and ask that you make up a set of fifty slides for distribution. The Committee is particularly anxious to obtain slides which are made of properly fixed material, so that the slides will be satisfactory for diagnosis.

"We are particularly interested in getting the cases ready several weeks before the meeting, and would appreciate receiving sample slides and histories by the middle of November. We feel that if slides can be sent to the pathologists throughout the state two weeks before the meeting, the cases can be diagnosed more satisfactorily and the discussion will be much more interesting.

"Kindly send your preliminary histories and slides to the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. A. G. Foord, Huntington Memorial Hospital, 749 Fairmont Avenue, Pasadena. He will get in touch with you concerning the cutting of fifty sections if your cases are accepted."

Disasters Caused by Man Are Worst of All.—Sudden disasters, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, great fires and tidal waves do not drag after them the serious problems of large-scale malnutrition that are occasioned by the man-made disasters of deforestation and soil erosion.

This was stated by Dr. Alfred C. Reed, Professor of Tropical Medicine in the Hooper Foundation of the University of California, in a recent address before the Third International Congress of Tropical Medicine and Malaria, meeting in Amsterdam, Holland. Doctor Reed is president-elect of the American Society of Tropical Medicine, and will assume the presidency at the annual meeting of the Society in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on November 14-17.

Doctor Reed states that every migration is related in some way to nutritional needs, even those occasioned by differences in religion, political and intellectual persecutions, and in the lust for simple conquest and power.

"The chief causes of population movements are essentially economic," Doctor Reed told the Congress. "These economic causes become objective and operative in various forms, chiefly in the form of interference with food supply. The great age of exploration in the sixteenth century was motivated by the need for spices to relieve the monotonous dietary of Europe. Interference with food supply is usually based on climatic change (historically), on political conditions, on the devastations of war and natural disaster, and on population pressure.

"War is the worst enemy of all for overpopulation unless one accepts an ideology entirely foreign to sound scientific method and social rights. There seems but one other method of control in case population density is to be scientifically correlated with available food supply. That is birth control. It must not be overlooked that at least a partial solution of the problem can be found in scientific elimination of the burden of the socially and mentally unfit, the confirmed criminals, and the insane. Size of any biologic unit—in this case a race or a nation—is no criterion of desirability. Quality and not quantity must be the goal."

Stanley P. Black Memorial Lectures.—The 1938 lecture was given in the Stanley P. Black Memorial Hall, 65 North Madison Avenue, Pasadena, on Tuesday, October 11, at 8:15 p. m.

The topic, "The Differential Diagnosis of Cardiac Pain, Including that Due to Coronary Occlusion," was presented by Dr. Frank N. Wilson, Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Southern California Medical Association.—The ninety-ninth semi-annual meeting of the Southern California Medical Association was held at the headquarters of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, 1925 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, on Friday and Saturday, October 28 and 29. As guest speaker the Association secured Dr. Lloyd H. Ziegler, Associate Medical Director, Milwaukee Sanitarium, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Doctor Ziegler was formerly professor of neurology and psychiatry at Albany Medical College.

Black Widow Spider Control Is Discovered.—A lizard, known popularly as the San Diego alligator lizard, has been found to be a biological control for the dread black widow spider. Dr. Raymond B. Cowles, zoölogist on the Los Angeles campus of the University of California, has made a study of the problem of black widow spiders, and has found that the San Diego lizard destroys both spiders and their eggs as quickly as it can find them.

"There are many reports that the black widow spider is increasing," said Doctor Cowles. "There is no way to verify this statement since there has never been any count of the spider. A few years back there were a great many of the spiders to be found about my own home. I introduced a number of the San Diegan lizards, and it was not long until I found it almost impossible to discover a single black widow anywhere about my place.

"This lizard is harmless in so far as human beings are concerned, and if we could introduce and protect them in reasonable numbers, then the black widow would become very difficult to find. But the common house cat preys upon the lizards about as avidly as the lizard preys upon the spiders."

Pound Act Would Be Hopeless Handicap to Science.—"There is no way in which biological and medical research departments of the University of California can meet the provisions of the proposed State Humane Pound Act which will appear on the November ballot without greatly increasing the cost of public welfare activities and seriously handicapping efforts to protect public health."

This conclusion was reached today by a committee of scientists of the University under the chairmanship of Dr. Karl F. Meyer, Director of the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research, following study of the provisions of the Act, and conferences on ways and means of meeting them.

Doctor Meyer states that in the considered judgment of the committee, whatever benefits the Act may have been designed to bring will be far outweighed by disadvantages which involve the health and happiness of the entire state.

Public announcement of these findings, Doctor Meyer added, is felt to be a duty of the committee, inasmuch as the inclusion of the word "Humane" in the title of the Act will undoubtedly incline voters who are unfamiliar with the dangers of the law to vote for it. It is believed that the great majority of voters, once they are cognizant of the facts, will vote "No."

"If the State Humane Pound Act were to be passed," members of the committee point out, "biological and medical research centers would be obliged to abandon animal studies for the control and prevention of diseases of mankind and of farm stock and pets, or to go into the difficult

and expensive business of breeding animals for that especial purpose. When thousands of uncared for and unwanted animals are already roaming about, frequently in a half-starved condition, and public funds must be spent to dispose of them, it is neither logical nor humane to bring more animals into the world at additional cost."

Facts gathered by the committee show that the present ability of veterinarians to care for the sickness and suffering of pets, and the success of the medical profession in raising the average longevity of American citizens from forty years to sixty years in two generations, is based, in the last analysis, upon the type of investigations which the State Humane Pound Act would make difficult or impossible. For this reason citizens are urged to vote "No" on the State Humane Pound Act.

Stable Fly Theory of Poliomyelitis Due for Revival. The theory, advanced years ago, that the stable fly or some other insect may carry the causative organism or factor of poliomyelitis, or infantile paralysis, is due for revival by science in the light of studies made within the past decade. This is stated by Dr. L. L. Lumsden, Director of the United States Public Health Service for the New Orleans area, who is at the University of California to deliver a series of lectures on epidemics and epidemiology.

The facts on which the insect hypothesis is based are that the disease has a higher incidence in the rural areas, proportionately speaking, and it usually occurs at the season of highest incidence of intestinal infectious diseases. The possibility of a lower animal reservoir should also be entertained, but more work is needed at once on the stable fly and other types of biting insect, Doctor Lumsden said.

The fact that the disease in its epidemic form tends to confine itself to certain areas, has also called for much speculation regarding local causative factors, he said. Undoubtedly many human beings in these areas who might be considered as carriers have traveled to other points without spreading the disease. In some of the earlier studies scientists were able to transmit a form of the disease to monkeys from the stable fly, but these cases were so few that the fly theory was finally discarded as untenable.

The San Joaquin County public health district, the objective of a number of ranking medical men throughout the country, was declared by Doctor Lumsden to be one of the finest of its type in the United States. Together with a number of the members of his lecture classes, Doctor Lumsden visited Stockton to confer with the officials of the district. The district rather than county organizations in San Joaquin County allows of a particularly effective health set-up, he said.

First Tests Made on New Medical Cyclotron.—The medical cyclotron, huge peace-time engine of healing elemental forces, being reared by the University of California to fight for the preservation and protection of human health and happiness in the midst of war alarms, is doing its first experimentation. While not yet fully geared and ready to produce the radio-active substances that science is to use in an enlarged and intensified campaign against many diseases, it can receive and engender certain magnetic energies useful in the field of physics. It still lacks the vacuum chamber and target chamber which will figure later in production of the radio-active substances to be used in widespread treatment of disease, but enough of the mechanism has been assembled to enable Dr. Francis A. Jenkins, Associate Professor of Physics, to make further determinations on the splitting of spectroscopic lines in the magnetic field. Thus Doctor Jenkins becomes the first to employ the new cyclotron experimentally, and its performance is being watched with keen interest by the whole world of science.

It is expected that the cyclotron will not be in full operation for four or five months, but, in the meantime, much

preparatory work is being done against the time when the great 225-ton engine will begin its atom-smashing, or, in other words, its "clinical" career. In one phase of this preparatory work, Dr. A. Marshak of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, New York, is experimenting with both x-ray and with neutron rays from the University's present cyclotron to make a comparison of the effect of both types of irradiation on both plant and animal chromosomes. The knowledge of such reactions may give more information on the functions of chromosomes, but the first determination that this scientist is seeking concerns the variability and sensitivity of these cell factors and their response to both types of irradiation. In this way it is hoped to determine what radiation dosages could be used with the cyclotron to get comparable effects in chromosomes of different subjects.

Great impetus has been given this work by the installation of a 220,000-volt x-ray machine by the General Electric Company. This has its own cubicle in the new radiation laboratory, set some distance from the cyclotron room, but within easy reach of the larger engine. The x-ray room contains the latest mechanism for measuring dosages, and should play a big part in making exact comparisons between neutron and x-ray irradiation.

San Francisco Heart Committee.—The San Francisco Heart Committee of the San Francisco County Medical Society will hold its Ninth Annual Postgraduate Symposium on Heart Disease on November 15, 16, 17, 1938. Sessions will be held at San Francisco Hospital, Stanford University Hospital, University of California Hospital, and Laguna Honda Home.

The registration fee is \$15, which includes membership in the California Heart Association, and a syllabus of the symposium. Registration closes on November 9, 1938, at the office of the San Francisco Heart Committee. Doctors registering after that date are asked to report for registration at the University of California Hospital, Third and Parnassus avenues, on Tuesday, November 15, between 8:30 and 9:30 a. m.

The morning meetings will be devoted to study groups limited to five or ten doctors. A number of these sections will be held each morning at the various hospitals.

The morning sessions will include demonstration of patients presenting problems in heart disease, evaluation of specific diagnostic procedures and therapy, differential diagnosis, and treatment. Opportunity will be given for questions and discussion, and for personal examination of the patients who are presented.

General sessions will be held each afternoon. On Tuesday afternoon the meeting will take place at Stanford University Hospital at which time the diagnosis and treatment of heart irregularities will be discussed.

On Wednesday afternoon problems in degenerative heart disease will be the subject for consideration at the University of California Hospital.

The subject for the Thursday afternoon session at San Francisco Hospital will be therapy of heart failure.

General sessions will also be held each evening. Technical demonstrations in heart disease are included in the Tuesday evening program at the University of California Hospital and Stanford University Hospital. The Wednesday evening meeting will be a public health meeting on heart disease, with Dr. J. C. Geiger presiding. This meeting will be held at the Veterans' Auditorium. It will be an open meeting, to which the public is invited.

Special plans for the closing session on Thursday evening, November 17, are being arranged. This will be a dinner meeting at which all doctors who have registered for the symposium will be guests of the Heart Committee.

The program for the symposium is being arranged by Doctors John J. Sampson (chairman), Walter H. Brown,

Richard D. Friedlander, Gordon E. Hein, William J. Kerr, William W. Newman, J. Marion Read, and William P. Shepard.

A copy of the program will be mailed to you on request. Address application for registration to Dr. William W. Newman, Secretary, San Francisco Heart Committee, 604 Mission Street, Room 802, San Francisco.

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press, on matters related to medical practice, follow:

Chiropractic Defined Court Limits Its Scope

Boundaries within which the system of Chiropractic can be practiced were defined yesterday in a ruling by Superior Judge Van Nostrand.

Ruling on a definition suit of the California chiropractic act brought by M. James McGranaghan, attorney-chiropractor, Judge Van Nostrand decided:

"Chiropractors are limited to the manual adjustment of subluxations and misalignments of the segments of the spine when such subluxations and misalignments cause occlusions of nerves and interference with the transmission of nerve force at or within the spinal column."

Any other practices or measures, the court ruled, are exclusively within the scope of physicians, surgeons or osteopaths, and it is unlawful for chiropractors to indulge in them.

So long as they do not violate provisions of the State medical act, osteopathic act or dental act, chiropractors can employ the use of "chiropractors' tables, hammers, towels, etc.," the court ruled.—*San Francisco Chronicle*, October 7.

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Migrant Camps Plan Advanced

Grand Jury Proposes Restricted Areas as Sanitation Measure

Bakersfield, Oct. 3.—(Exclusive)—Recommendation by the Kern County Grand Jury for migratory workers to be required to live in limited camping areas was made to the Kern Board of Supervisors today.

The grand jury advocated establishment of county camps similar to the Federal camps at Shafter and Arvin. In event that the Federal government does not set up more of these camps here, the grand jury recommends the county establish such camps at Rockpile, Mountain View, Delano and McFarland areas for three hundred families each.

The purpose of these supervised camps would be to prevent sporadic bivouacs and insanitary conditions attending such practices in other sections of the county. The agricultural laborers are needed to harvest seasonal crops, the report stated.

A charge of 10 cents per day would be made for camping privileges and four hours' work per month for each man in camp, which would provide tents, showers and washing equipment.—*Los Angeles Times*, October 4.

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Yuba Medical Office Extends Service to Seven Counties

Marysville (Yuba County), Oct. 11.—The Agricultural Workers Health and Medical Association office here today took over the work of seven Superior California counties with the closing of the Woodland, Yolo County, office.

Miss Gwendoline Harris, in charge of the Marysville office, said an additional full time clerk will be placed here and that the combined offices will care for the medical needs of agricultural workers in Yuba, Sutter, Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Yolo, and Sacramento counties.

633 Patients are Aided

Previously the Marysville office covered Yuba, Sutter and Butte counties and portions of Colusa and Glenn counties.

Since its establishment here last June the association, financed through federal funds, has given medical assistance to 633 patients.

Exclusive for Workers

The aid is exclusively for agricultural workers and their families who have been residents of the State for less than a year. Patients are not obligated to pay for medical, dental treatment, hospitalization or drugs, but may pay the costs at such time as they are able.

The local office has a panel of forty-two physicians and dentists who give treatment in their individual offices and who are paid fixed fees by the association.—*Sacramento Bee*, October 11.